

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1 and 4-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 7 has been amended. The specification supports the amendment to claim 1, such as on page 9. Claim 7 has been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 3. Claim 10 is new. The specification supports claim 10, such as on page 7. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,791,147 to Tanaka *et al.* ("Tanaka '147") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,384,032 to Tashiro *et al.* ("Tashiro '032") or U.S. Patent No. 4,638,015 to Bertrand ("Bertrand '015").

Additionally, claims 6 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanaka '147 in combination with EP 0 928 805 ("EP '805"), and further in combination with Tashiro '032 or Bertrand '015.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,918,111 to Tanaka *et al.* ("Tanaka '111") in combination with Tashiro '032 or Bertrand '015.

Claim 1 presently recites a neutralizer (c), a moisture absorbent (d) and an inorganic filler (e).

Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka '147, Tashiro '032, Bertrand '015, EP '805, and Tanaka '111 fail to teach or suggest adding a neutralizer, a moisture absorbent and an inorganic filler to an olefin-based copolymer and a thermally decomposable foaming agent.

Tanaka '147 discloses a composition including a 1-butene polymer, a propylene polymer, and a blowing agent. *See* col. 3, lines 8-27. Tanaka '147 fails to disclose adding thereto a neutralizer, a moisture absorbent and an inorganic filler.

Tashiro '032, Bertrand '015 and EP '805 fail to alleviate the deficiencies of Tanaka '147. Tashiro '032 is relied upon for disclosing the blending of polyethylene which are impregnated with 7 parts of pentane with an auxiliary blowing agent consisting of 0.1 part of azobisbutyronitrile, 0.2 parts of citric acid and 0.4 parts of sodium bicarbonate. *See* col. 2, lines 57-68. Bertrand '015 is relied upon for disclosing that examples of a blowing agent include citric acid and bicarbonate of alkali metal or ammonium, azodicarbonamide, diazoaminobenzene, azo-bis-isobutyronitrile, inert gases and analogs. *See* col. 2, lines 32-39. EP '805 is relied upon for disclosing expanding agents. *See* paragraph [0021]. Each of Tashiro '032, Bertrand '015 and EP '805 fail to teach or suggest a neutralizer, a moisture absorbent and an inorganic filler.

Further, Tanaka '111 discloses an expandable composition including a 1-butene polymer, an ethylene polymer, and a blowing agent. *See*, col. 2, lines 47-54. Tanaka '111 fails to disclose adding a neutralizer, a moisture absorbent and an inorganic filler to the composition thereof.

Tashiro '032 and Bertrand '015 fail to alleviate the deficiencies of Tanaka '111. The disclosures of Tashiro '032 and Bertrand '015 are provided above. In this regard, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to add a neutralizer, a moisture absorbent and an inorganic filler to an olefin-based copolymer and a thermally decomposable foaming agent.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/791,387

Docket No: Q80091

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

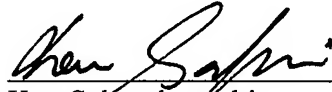
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